

**CLAUSE H.12 - RESERVED**

**CLAUSE H.13 – CONTRACTOR ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

- (a) The Contractor shall develop a contractor assurance system that is executed by the Contractor's Board of Directors ( or equivalent corporate oversight entity) and implemented throughout the Contractor's organization. This system provides reasonable assurance that the objectives of the contractor management systems are being accomplished and that the systems and controls will be effective and efficient. The contractor assurance system, at a minimum, shall include the following key attributes:
- (1) A comprehensive description of the assurance system with processes, key activities, and accountabilities clearly identified.
  - (2) A method for verifying/ensuring effective assurance system processes. Third party audits, peer reviews, independent assessments, and external certification (such as VPP and ISO 9001 or ISO 14001) may be used.
  - (3) Timely notification to the Contracting Officer of significant assurance system changes prior to the changes.
  - (4) Rigorous, risk-based, credible self-assessments, and feedback and improvement activities, including utilization of nationally recognized experts, and other independent reviews to assess and improve the Contractor's work process and to carry out independent risk and vulnerability studies.
  - (5) Identification and correction of negative performance/compliance trends before they become significant issues.
  - (6) Integration of the assurance system with other management systems including Integrated Safety Management.
  - (7) Metrics and targets to assess performance, including benchmarking of key functional areas with other DOE contractors, industry and research institutions. Assure development of metrics and targets that result in efficient and cost effective performance.
  - (8) Continuous feedback and performance improvement.
  - (9) An implementation plan (if needed) that considers and mitigates risks.

- (10) Timely and appropriate communication to the Contracting Officer, including electronic access, of assurance related information.

The initial contractor assurance system description shall be approved by the Contracting Officer.

- (b) The Government may revise its level and/or mix of oversight of this contract when the Contracting Officer determines that the assurance system is or is not operating effectively.

#### **CLAUSE H.14 - STANDARDS OF CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

- (a) Use of objective standards of performance, self assessment and performance evaluation:
  - (1) The Parties agree that the Contractor will utilize a comprehensive performance-based management approach for overall Laboratory management. The performance-based management approach will include the use of objective performance goals and indicators, agreed to in advance of each performance evaluation period, as standards against which the Contractor's overall performance of the scientific and technical mission obligations under this Contract will be assessed. The performance criteria will be limited in number and focus on results to drive improved performance and increased effective and efficient management of the Laboratory.
  - (2) The Parties agree to utilize the process described within Part III, Section J, Appendix B - "Performance Evaluation and Measurement Plan" (PEMP) to evaluate the performance of the Laboratory. The Parties further agree that the evaluation process described in Appendix B will be reviewed annually and modified, if necessary, by agreement of the Parties. If agreement of the Parties cannot be reached, the Contracting Officer has the unilateral right to establish the evaluation process.
  - (3) The Parties agree that the Contractor will conduct an ongoing self-assessment process as the principal means of determining its compliance with the Contract Statement of Work and performance indicators identified within Part III, Section J, Appendix B. To assist the DOE in accomplishing the appropriate level of oversight, the Contractor shall work in partnership and cooperation with DOE and other external organizations, as appropriate, in the self-assessment process. This work includes, but is not limited to, the development and execution of self-assessments and the utilization of the results for continuous improvement.